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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDICAL TACTICS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: EMPOWERING OFFICERS TO SAVE THEIR OWN LIVES

The Franklin County District Attorney's Office recently partnered with the Franklin Fire Company to bring *Medical Tactics For Law Enforcement* training to Franklin County Law Enforcement agencies. *Medical Tactics for Law Enforcement* is an eight hour practical and didactic training module designed to give law enforcement personnel the mindset and skills necessary to assess and manage trauma in tactical situations. Designed by Dr. Andrew Dennis, Cook County, IL trauma surgeon and police officer, *Medical Tactics For Law Enforcement* was developed specifically for law enforcement personnel with little or no prior medical training. The training, which was held on November 17th, 18th, and 19th, was sponsored by the Franklin County District Attorney's Office and hosted by the Franklin Fire Company, in Chambersburg. Ninety-two local, state, and federal law enforcement personnel received training in a variety of tactical trauma topics, including ballistics, decision-making, remote casualty assessment, recognizing and stabilizing injuries, lifts, drags, and carries, as well training on how to safely plan, prepare, and execute casualty extractions. Participants also received their own personal Trauma Rapid Intervention Kit as part of the training. Designed specifically for law enforcement personnel with no prior medical training, the Trauma Rapid Intervention Kit is a personal trauma kit which contains critical life-saving tools designed to address the primary threats of domestic law enforcement service: extremity hemorrhage, airway compromise, open pneumothorax (sucking chest wound), and shock.

Re: MEDICAL TACTICS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: EMPOWERING OFFICERS TO SAVE THEIR OWN LIVES

11/30/14



The Franklin County District Attorney's Office began looking into providing tactical medical training several months ago, when medical tactics was identified as an unmet training need for Franklin County law enforcement personnel. Generally speaking, when an officer is wounded in a shooting or other traumatic incident, the people who are typically going to be best-positioned to render immediate medical aid are other law enforcement personnel, who, in most cases, are also usually the least qualified public safety personnel to render medical assistance. Most law enforcement officers are only certified in basic first aid and CPR and are not appropriately trained to handle serious trauma injuries. Higher credentialed civilian EMS personnel will generally have an extended response time to a law enforcement incident, relative to that of personnel already on-scene, and will also be forced to stage at an off-site location until the scene is secured by law enforcement personnel. Therefore, the Franklin County District Attorney's Office saw the need for law enforcement personnel to receive training in more advanced tactical life-saving skills, which are designed to increase public safety and officer safety by mitigating injuries caused by firearms, cutting instruments, blunt force, and other forms of trauma. As a result of this training, ninety-two law enforcement personnel are now equipped with the tools and life-saving skills that will enable them to render immediate assistance to an injured officer or civilian, or treat their own injuries until access to higher credentialed EMS support can be facilitated.

Re: MEDICAL TACTICS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: EMPOWERING OFFICERS TO SAVE
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In 2013, the Franklin County District Attorney's Office began to take an active role in the provision of local law enforcement training in Franklin County after the Franklin County Public Safety Training Center, which had previously been used solely for fire/rescue training, was made available for law enforcement training as well. Over the past year, with assistance from the Franklin County Coroner's Office, substantial technological improvements have been made to the facility and over 30 law enforcement training programs have been made available to local law enforcement and other public safety personnel. Training offered at the facility has covered topics such as impaired driving detection and enforcement, interview and interrogation, report writing, legal updates, methamphetamine lab awareness, vehicle stops, and a variety of drug investigation training. In 2014, over 600 law enforcement and other public safety personnel have participated in these training programs, which have provided over 234 training hours to area police officers, conservation officers, probation officers, and other public safety personnel.

The law enforcement training that is now being offered locally enables local law enforcement agencies to provide training to their officers at a central location within Franklin County. Much of this training had previously only been available at remote training sites, which required extended commute times and/or lodging arrangements, both of which incurred additional training related expenses, such as vehicle fuel, travel time, and lodging for the county's law enforcement agencies. The decreased travel times afforded by locally-hosted training programs also allow for more time for officers to be on the streets and far less reliance on overtime to backfill schedules.

Another benefit of training locally is that Franklin County law enforcement personnel are afforded the opportunity to train with other Franklin County officers, whom they work with on a daily basis, rather than training with officers from other areas.

Lastly, offering training locally affords the Franklin County Chiefs' of Police Association the ability to offer a training curriculum that is custom-designed to meet the training needs of Franklin County law enforcement personnel, rather than attending training designed for a much broader audience at remote training sites. Local training also offers a level of scheduling flexibility that is not attainable when sending officers to remote training sites. The training scheduled locally is scheduled in a manner which allows the Franklin County police chiefs to offer training on dates that are the most compatible with their available staffing resources.

The provision of this training at a centrally-located training facility within Franklin County affords the county's law enforcement agencies the ability to provide quality training to their personnel at a substantial cost savings relative to attending the same training at remote locations, while simultaneously providing unmatched flexibility in scheduling and curriculum design. Ultimately, this results in having more training provided to more officers, in the most economical fashion possible.

The Franklin County District Attorney's Office will continue to work with the Franklin County Public Safety Training Center, the Franklin County Coroner's Office, and other training partners to bring additional law enforcement training programs to Franklin County. Over 25 training programs are currently planned for 2015 and additional courses are continually being added to the training calendar.